

Tape #203

M. LYNN MARTINSEN

Interviewed by Joe Winder

Joe Winder (JW): Tell me what your name is and when you were born.

Lynn Martinsen (Lynn): Maynard Lynn Martinsen, and I was born in Koosharem, Utah, on 31st of July 1917.

JW: Could you tell me about your early years, your first ten years?

Lynn: I started out with my birth with a crooked neck and they had to break it to straighten it. I didn't really know that until I went to a chiropractor after I was grown and they told me I'd had a broken neck and that was the first I knew. The chiropractor told me that after he X-rayed me. Then when I went into the army, they sent me home because I had a fracture between my upper dorsals [sic] and my neck. That was through birth.

JW: When did you move up into this valley?

Lynn: I was just two years old, so it was just two years after that date we moved to this valley. My father came up here sheep shearing with Pete Erickson from Koosharem into this area because there was a lot of sheep. He saw all these creeks a-blooming in the spring, bouncing down through this valley and this water is what brought him here. They didn't have that much water down there. We lived in Koosharem, Utah, at the time. He had a ranch there. Then he later got with Doc Eastman. They went up and built a resort at Fish Lake. I think it was the first resort that was built at Fish Lake, was that Doc Eastman Resort. Dad and him had that together.

JW: So then you attended Central School, I presume, did you?

Lynn: Yeah, we moved here and I grew up and I went to Naples to start with. Then we moved to town because of Dad's carpenter work. Well, we didn't move to town, we moved up into the Gillan's place. When he moved here, he thought he had to have a big place, see. Well, he bought a salt grass pasture down there in Naples. It didn't pan out so good, he had 500 head of sheep he started with and took them down on the Alhandra Ranch, down on the river, and somebody down there was supposed to be taking care of them. He went down there and they was all starving so he had to sell them to get rid of them. So that didn't pan out. So he spent the rest of his life "carpentering."

JW: He was a good carpenter.

Lynn: Yes, he got over a lot of work. He was a hard worker.

JW: Did he teach you carpentry?

Lynn: Yes, I worked with my father for quite a while. But it come natural for me. Albert

Goodrich was hard to get A's out of, but I got A's out of Albert in woodwork.

JW: I attended one of his classes, too. I didn't do so good. You built this home right here, I guess.

Lynn: Yes, I built this when I was about twenty-six years old, I believe.

JW: Do you remember any particular experiences in Naples School or in the Central School or your teachers or anything that way?

Lynn: Naples I don't, but when I moved to town, I remember some of the things. I was slow in school. Arithmetic didn't bother me, it was English. I had a hard time spelling. It was, I think, 4th grade I slipped a cog, then I finally got into the 5th grade and Ted Erickson was our teacher. I was working mornings up here in Stockman Club sweeping out the stairs and washing up a little, and I got, I don't remember if it was twenty-five or fifty cents I got paid for that job. To me that was big money because back in those days, if you saved that up, you could buy your own clothes with it.

JW: Where was that Stockman's Club located?

Lynn: It was upstairs above the top of the bank.

JW: The Bank of Vernal?

Lynn: Yeah, it was up in there, just back of the bank upstairs. I would go there and sweep those stairs down and carry coal in for them. They burned coal. It was Fat Hyatt was running it. You remember Fat Hyatt? He's right there by the chapel, he went to the church all the time. Then I'd go down and mow his lawn in the summertime. He had a big lawn. He'd give me a dollar for mowing that lawn. It would take me pert near half a day to get that all mowed, pushing that little lawn mower.

The funny part was, that winter in school, there was Ferrell Abplanalp and Ken Holmes and they smoked. They'd sneak out behind the old green building, we called it the old Green Bunk, down below, and they'd smoke. I'd come back every morning smelling of tobacco in that club where I'd been up there cleaning it, and they thought I smoked. Well, when Valentine came around, Ted Erickson, our teacher, says, well, she gave us all a card. Us three got a card with a big pipe in our mouth and the smoke a-rollin' and I know that was all it was for! It hurt my feelings because I didn't smoke. I remembered it because it hurt my feelings.

Then later in the year there, Ferrell was giving her a bad time. He had a quirt, and he was flipping the girls on the legs. She come and grabbed the quirt away from him. As she took the quirt and hit the desk scolding him, the end of that quirt whipped around the ink well in the desk and jerked it out and it went all over her dress, and she just stood there and cried because it was a brand new dress, nice dress, that she had just got. I felt sorry for her.

JW: When you went to high school, [was it] right up there where the swimming pool is?

Lynn: Right where the swimming pool is was our high school. The junior high was on the north

of it. In Jr. high, I went to two years there, of course, like they all did. Then you go into the high school and went about four years there. It was a long old row to hoe, but I imagine to graduate.

JW: Was that Jr. high the old Academy building? Or was it this new...

Lynn: To us it was a new building, but it didn't take long to be old when I graduated. Tore it down and built a new one.

JW: That would be the high school.

Lynn: That was the high school where the swimming pool is now.

JW: Was the Jr. high the old Academy building, that brick building on the north of the high school?

Lynn: I think what they called the old Academy, I would think, would be the Jr. high that was on the north. Later they used part of it for a band room.

JW: When I went there, they kept the 8th grade in the elementary school, then went to the high school. We were the first class. That was, when I started as a freshman they were just finishing a new building, but they used the Academy for classrooms also.

Lynn: Well, they did all through high school, they had some high school go over there for band and different things, chorus, or whatever they called it, singing. I remember they come and called me out of class when I was I think a junior, I can't remember, junior or senior, and they wanted me to come over and try out for the opera. I went over there and Burr Winn was the teacher, I believe, at that time. They were practicing for the opera. In the meantime, they had Ken Westover, and he got expelled from school so they had to get a new replacement for him, and Lorna Anderson was the lady. She was a good singer. So they were after somebody who was tall because they wanted somebody more Lorna's height and someone that had a good voice and could sing. They got me over there and wanted me to try out for the opera. Man, I'm not no singer! My ears does not hear my own voice. I've had that problem all my life, that's why I haven't sang with my brothers and sisters. Tony was a good singer, Wade was good, Calvin's good, but I just didn't have the tone in my ears to tell where I was at. Now, I can tell if somebody else is singing, but I can't myself. I had a big laugh off of that!

JW: So you graduated in about 1934 from high school?

Lynn: No, I didn't get out of school, last year was fifty years, or year before last, '37 is when I graduated.

JW: What did you go into after you got out of high school?

Lynn: Well, I was working with my father before I got out of school. The summer before I got out of school, I was building buildings down here with my father, carpenter work. When I got out

of school, I went right into carpenter work. Then when the war broke out, I went to Colorado, then I went down to Salt Lake, then I went down to Nevada, got in pretty good down there in Nevada. I got in so good that they drug my name in for draft and I didn't even know about it. They'd told us down there, that carpenters were ten cents a dozen. They couldn't give you a deferment. They didn't tell me, but they told one of my friends. I just ignored anything. I figured when my time come, I'd come home and go. So I came home.

I got a letter from the department down there: you better get back on the job, they was getting me a deferment. I went back down to see what it was all about. They says, "We thought we'd lost you." I said, "Well, I thought carpenters were ten cents a dozen." He said, "Not your kind." So I got six months deferment through the state. They went over the board's head in Vernal. Vernal turned it down, their deferment. So they asked for thirty days until they could replace me. In the meantime they went to the state and got me a deferment. So they must have thought a little of me. They had quite a crew working there. I asked Monsen, the pusher that was over me, Bill Cook and Monsen was the pushers...

JW: Oh, you worked for Bill Cook.

Lynn: Yeah, down there.

JW: He was my uncle. He sat and talked for about an hour telling about him and this Monsen and the tricks they'd pull on each other.

Lynn: Oh, you bet, old Bill was one of the worst ones! Talking about tricks, we sat eating our dinner on our tool boxes. We had big wooden tool boxes in the shop. Everett Garden, one of the carpenters, had taken a bucket of water and tied it up in the trusses in the shop with a rope so he could sit over there against the wall. He had that rope behind him, and then he'd just jerk the rope and tip the bucket. It was full of water and it was the noon hour. All of a sudden—I don't know if Bill was in on that or not, could've been, he always is, Old Bill Cook got me down there—anyway, he pulls that rope and that water pours all over and just soaks this old Jess Marble under it! Oh, they get a kick out of that!

I went there one day and went to put my carpenter overalls on, you know, you pull them over your others, in the wintertime you do. They'd taken and cut all the heads off a bunch of big spikes and they'd drove those big spikes through my pants just barely into the wood, so I'd come in there and think there was all big spikes, they'd spiked my coveralls down!

JW: He was telling about how they'd stick snuff or chewing tobacco or something in their car and hide it under there and the engine would warm up an it would stink. They'd hide it under their seat. He said he crawled way back under the frame there.

Lynn: Bill's the one that wrote me a letter and said that his boy, Lee, had gone into the army. There was an opening. He said, "Lynn, if you want it, you can have it." Then when I got down there he says, "You know there's other carpenters in Vernal," he said, "I could have had come down, but I didn't think they could cut the mustard." I thought that was a pretty good field for me, because see he had worked with me down here at Fuller Remington's, in fact he put the stairway in at Fuller's, and he saw what I was doing down there. He knew I could do it. So when

that came, I was working at Clearfield, at the time in Salt Lake. I got that letter, I decided to go down there. It was two bits an hour more and a warmer climate; of course, it was hot in the summer, 108° in the shade. I was there for two years.

JW: Then did you come back and go in the, that is, you were drafted?

Lynn: I was drafted and went out to Salt Lake and they held us over there two or three days and told us we was Texas-bound, they had plenty of room for us. The war was pretty well on then, you know. You could say it was into the war about two or three years, so it would be what?

JW: That would be '45.

Lynn: I was working at Pando Camp, Colorado, when it broke out, went up there and helped them build that camp, then came back and went out to Clearfield and worked there. Then I went down to Nevada state for two years. I had a fellow that I worked with, he was a pusher too, he liked to race all the time, time goes faster. We was racing, we were putting trim on, we were building a hospital, we were putting the trim on bedrooms, baseboard, the casings and quarter-round. He come in there one day and he thought I was poking along not doing enough. He grabs a handful of that molding and he goes into the next room. I was working the hall, just come down around a big long hall and out the door. I was just going around the corner and he saw me and he thought I wasn't moving along very fast. He wanted to show me up, so he grabbed a bundle of this molding and goes in the next room, and I knew what he was up to. So I says to myself, "He's not going to show me up." So I hurried and run that strip right on down to the door, finished that base and quarter-round down to the hospital door. It was quite a distance down the hall.

I finished that and grabbed me a bunch of that molding, I'd go by his door, I'd just mope along and then I'd go in there and go like heck. With these stainless-steel saws, I cut my molding freehand. I could do it and make just as pretty a cut as if you went on a miter saw. So I just threw a block of it out in the middle of the floor and grabbed my moldings and pulled them in there and started going around that room and had the room done. I needed more molding, I just mope past his door and look in, he'd look up at me and see I was just taking my time. 'd go in that room then I'd go like heck.

When I finished and walked in there and I leaned against the door, and I said, "Monsen, I believe this is the last room, isn't it? We don't have anymore rooms." He said, "No, that's the last one." It was a corner room, it was bigger than his. I said, "Well, there's just about two foot of molding I run short of, I lacked that much getting to the door, the rest is all done." He said, "You're not done with that yet." I just stood there and grinned at him. He got up and walked around my room, every joint, and examined them and you know he swore a little, and he said, "G. D. you must have flew!"

Then when they called me in for the army, they came to him and asked him, "This Martinsen's a good man, isn't he?" He said, "He's G. D. good!" So I got in pretty good down there. In fact they wanted me to stay and build that mill there in Brucite. I think they're using it now, a big gold mine there now, that town has grown, they said it's got big, I want to see it.

JW: What town was it that you were in, in Nevada?

Lynn: When we got down there it was called Tooabe, then they changed the name to Gabbs. It's Gabbs, Nevada, now.

JW: I've heard of Tooabe.

Lynn: That's where they mined the magnesium that they shipped to Vegas to smelter. What we had was a mill there that we were maintenancing. Had to do a lot of high work, that's what they claimed I was good at, that helps. Then we had different things happen like I was just telling. Monsen, he'd come over and he was, "You're working me to death, what have you got that I haven't?" Stood and watched me a minute.

You're stripping plywood off of the ceilings so we could move some of these buildings that they'd built earlier. They'd built them, studding, and siding and plywood, they built them cheap. There was quarter-inch plywood on the inside. They were saving that, pile it up, just pull the nails out. He saw me throwing a sheet against the wall and then shoving another one up to it and tap a little and just lift those head and nails out. He was tapping them back, then going around the other side, and pulling them out. He said, "I knew you had something that I didn't, you've been working me to death."

I've always been able to figure out things, even my brother, a boy out here, got him a big garage door for his garage and he had instructions and everything. He laid it out on the floor. He'd worked at it a day and he couldn't figure it out. I happened to go in there and he says, "It just don't work as they've got it described." I wasn't only a few minutes standing there looking at it. Well, you're just going to have to take your welder and weld this piece and turned it over and this piece and turned it over and on the top and you could see it was going work. Then he went ahead and put it up. "Doggone it", he says, "I've been all day trying to get that figured out. You come here and its a few minutes."

JW: So when they drafted you, your physical they gave you, is that when they discovered your neck had been broken?

Lynn: No, I knew it before, but see what happened, when I went in for my physical, they took us over and showed us a show and they examined us, run us through a line. I got appendicitis. So I went in to, I guess the two guys sitting there were doctors, they must have been, because all I know is these two fellows was sitting there and one of them says, "What are you humped over for?" I said, "Well, I got a pain in my gut." It was appendicitis. "Oh, that's appendicitis."

They sent me over to these two guys and they asked me a lot of questions. They asked me different questions about this, that and the other and he says, "Have you been to a doctor about it?" I says, "Well, no, just a chiropractor." He says, "Well, what did you go to the chiropractor for?" I said, "To please my wife." He says, "Well, what did he tell you?" They told me I had a broken neck.

So then they sent me into X-ray and I was in there all day long. Some doctors, they'd come and talk to me then they'd take some more X-rays, and then they'd talk to me, some more X-rays. There I sit bare naked all afternoon and most of the time alone. All I know is, they just sent me a piece of paper up to some office or something. I guess that was a doctor, must have been one of the head doctors. I glanced at the paper and it said, "Fractured, two upper dorsals

neck. Varicose veins back of knees." And something else, I can't remember what the other was.

JW: About your appendix?

Lynn: No, they never mentioned appendix and that's what I went in there for. They sent me home. Give me a piece of paper, said you have been rejected. So they sent me home. Went in and seen Doc Hansen and he took me right into the hospital and operated on me for appendicitis.

JW: They didn't want to pay for it, see?

Lynn: They didn't want to pay for the appendicitis. I guess that's what happened.

JW: Usually something like that, well, there is a type of appendicitis that will come and go and I guess that's what you had.

Lynn: Well, the doc told me, "Lynn, you've got an appendix that may get better and might break. If you're out fishing or out in the hills hunting or you're working somewhere, you had this swell up on you and could break and catch you in a bad way, I'd advise you to get it taken care of now." So he went ahead and operated.

JW: He was a good old doctor.

Lynn: I've had surgery so many times. I guess I've had surgery six times.

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JW: ...when you got rejected by the army.

Lynn: Oh no. I was just a young man, about twenty-six or twenty-seven.

JW: So then you came back to Vernal and started building your home here, did you?

Lynn: Yeah, when I came back before I left. I had bought a lot from Leon P. Christensen right here where the house is. Edgar had given my wife the old house over there. I had fixed it up and put a foundation under it and made it worth a little more and we sold it to get the money to start this one.

JW: And you built some more back here, didn't you?

Lynn: Yeah, I built some back here and sold them. We got a funny lot here. I had room for a couple of houses back here. But I was building the houses and sold them up here in Asher Merkley's field, shouldn't have mentioned his name, I guess, ? lie to me and ruined my name with Asher so that I lost out with Asher. He was a real good friend and I was honest with him and then for this fellow to come in and ruin us like he did.

JW: When was it that you got into this Mosby Canal?

Lynn: I wanted to ever since I was a kid and seen Zelf Calder's fish pond up here, I wanted me a fish pond. I wanted to make money off of fish. Fish pond, that was my idea. So I went over here to Mosby hoping that I could find someplace that I could build a fishpond, you know, make a deal. Found out about this ranch that Bernita Bershae wanted to sell and when I got to talking about it, Edgar wanted the range that went with it down here on the river for his lambs, sheep.

So I mentioned it to him about this land up here and I said, boy, that's some nice ground up there, a nice place, I'd like to have that. He got to figuring out that he wanted to sell the range out here and I think 100 or so ton of hay that was on the ranch down there and this place up here altogether, get rid of it all. Bernita Bershae owned it and wanted to get rid of all of it. So Edgar got thinking about it and said, "If Lynn that had, if he'd give all the fort up there, that would be a good deal." Because 1000 acres for \$800, why that's about all it amounted to, or \$8000.

Well, maybe we ought to go look at it. So we went up and looked at it and come back and we'd already looked at this down here and knew about it and he was almost to buy it just for this down here. He calls up, I told him about this Mosby Water, they're building a canal into ? Park to pick up this water up there. Monty says, "If there's a chance for that water, let's find out." He called Floyd Creer, he was the president of the company then, he says, "Yeah, we'd like to sell." So Edgar decided to buy, it was cheap then, that water was cheap. I don't remember now exactly what it was, but it wasn't too much, 900 shares of that water.

Well, that give them just enough money to finish that last little quarter of a mile into the creek. So that pleased everybody, so away they went. Edgar called Rita Bershae and says, "We've decided to take the place." He says, "Lynn, I have no interest up there whatsoever, that's yours and Cleve's and I want it for the range and hay." So got 160 acres and the range down here which he felt was worth a little money. That's where it started.

Later on I bought, let me see, I went over to Zion's for a good deal all the time, and I asked for a couple of thousand dollars one day there, and they wouldn't let me have it. I got disgusted and went across the street. No problems, I got my money. Then I went back and I says, "I got a chance to buy some ground up Mosby, 636 acres for I think it's \$42-43 thousand dollars. I guess \$43,000. I walked in the bank and asked for that money and they kind of shied off. So I went to Salt Lake. I'd already done business with the Farmers Banking, Stockman Bank in Salt Lake, what do you call it? Production Credit. I went in. I just come off the street there and walked in and sat down to the big shot there and I said, "I need \$42,000 to buy some land." Sit there and looked at me a minute, and says, "Lynn, anyone else had walked in here off the street and said what you did, I'd've laughed at them. But I'm gonna let you have it. We know what you've done, and we're gonna let you have it. But," he says, "We can't pick up that money right now, quick. It takes a while, it might take months to pick up that money for you." I said, "Well, I might not be able to get the land." He said, "You go home and tell your bank that we'll cover it, but we won't have the money for thirty days."

So I go home and told First Security, I says, "Well, Production Credit told me they'd let me have the money, but it'd take maybe thirty days to get it." "Oh," he says, "You don't have to do that, we'll let you have it right here!" So they let me have the money for that ground and I sold half the ground and paid it off and the rest in the clear. I got 325 acres in the clear. Well, I made money on it, I actually made \$80,000 over and above. I sold that ground for enough to pay it off, plus \$80,000. So I come out all right on that deal.

But you know, as things go along over the years, the bank interest just gradually eats you up! By the time you move all this ground, why the bank's got it all. I was just figuring out in a ten-year period I had given that bank a quarter of a million of dollars in interest. I was paying it at 21% at times. I had \$68,500 borrowed from Interstate, and by the time I got that paid off, I don't remember now what it cost me, but it was a big amount at 21%. That's what makes you have cancer and grow old is worrying about getting these bills paid. I had \$90,000 billed down here at First Security Bank the last go around, and I had this stock and I was selling some of this stock. I sold the stock all but I lacked \$20,000 paying it off. I went in and asked him, "Why don't you give me a year on it?" And he wasn't going to do it. Finally decided to do it. "Well, if you don't, you've got the dirt." "We don't want the dirt," he said. I said, "Well, then work with me."

So they give me a year and I went in and paid it off, all but \$20,000, and I went in there and said, "Well, I've paid you quite a bit of money. \$90,000 a year is a lot of money," and I only lacked \$20,000 paying it off. I said, "I'd like to hold this stock a little longer." "Well, we've got to have it." He said they had a new man down there. He didn't like me because I told him he could have the dirt, see. He had to have his money, and he had \$35,000 worth of my stock in the bank in Salt Lake plus the mortgage on my store up here that would have covered it several times over.

I says, "Who do you loan your money to? Where can you get a better security than you've got right now on my \$20,000? Where do you go to get it in this town? You've got my money to cover it in stock, you've got my store, now why do you have to have the \$20,000?" "Well, you told us you'd pay it and we've got to have it." "All right," I says, "If that's the way you want it." So I sold some more stock and then paid it. I just moved out of the bank. They wrote me a letter and wanted to know why I moved out. I didn't tell them.

JW: Eventually you bought that land under irrigation?

Lynn: Oh, we had pert near all of it. We had, I would guess...well most of it...I was watering eight or nine hundred acres there. We had 900 shares of Mosby water, well I had 920 shares of Mosby water. That was pert near a third of the company. In other words, we was allowed thirty foot of water out of Dry Fork Creek.

The interesting part of this water, the engineer here in Vernal, now what was his name? Leon P. Christensen. He was their engineer, and he says, "Well you don't have to worry about them ever getting water out of there, the sink will come down the creek anyway." They weren't much worried, but they didn't know. When we got that project built, then he got excited. They was taking forty foot of water there. So then we got into a deal with the Highline. They let theirs elapse and it fell to us, so then we had to go to court with them to prove it was ours. That's when we got Joe Novack involved, attorney in Salt Lake. He was one of the best attorneys there is in Salt Lake almost. He was an engineer before he was an attorney so he got it down pat. He spent a lot of time with us. We made Joe. He got a reputation over that lawsuit with Vernal here when they went to the Supreme Court. He went to the Supreme Court on it.

JW: I'd like to hear a little more about how were you successful in raising livestock there.

Lynn: Well, it turned out good to start with. I got about 450 head of sheep up there that Edgar started us out with, a few old ewes, then we kept buying young ones. I bought out Asher

Merkley's little bunch of pure bloods, 140 head, then I bought out this other guy that had sheep up here in Glines. His daughter married Frank Swain.

JW: Spears.

Lynn: Spears, yeah. I bought Spears' sheep. He had some big nice Columbia ewes, beautiful ewes, registered. He was raising registered bucks, so was Asher Merkley, so I got a good stock. I kept saving my good lambs out of those, but you know, down the road a ways, I bought that place from Johnny that Ren had and died. Then Johnny got it and he told me, "Lynn, I had to sell out up here because they was stealing me blind."

So it got the same way again. I would lamb out, I'd dock 650 lambs and I'd ship 200. They would take them, they'd know when I went down Saturday and wasn't there, and they'd go up and load them up some lambs. I had, I don't know, I guess some from Lapoint and some from Tridell and some clear down here on Green River. Well, this Martin outfit came up and stole my welder and tools and grain out of the granary and this is what I run into.

JW: Going back to Novack, could you tell me a little more about how that was finalized?

Lynn: They finalized that in court down here. Joe Novack was our attorney and he won that case, and eventually he had to go to the Supreme Court and won out there, and I saw that in the Supreme Court right in Salt Lake. It was interesting. First time in my life, the only time, I'd ever been in the Supreme Court. I got to see him handle that case. It was educational. We won that case from the Highline then they wanted to make settlement with us on the water. So we go down here and make a deal with them, and, of course, we'd go in and talk it over and then we'd go in and talk it over with them. We got the thing finally down to where we would take thirty feet in the spring, then we'd take twenty feet after the first of July, then I think it was ten feet after August. Goes down to ten feet. Well, what they didn't know, that's all the water was in the creek. We was getting it all! After the high water was over, why that's all the water there was in the creek. That was that fork of Blanchet we used to get, then they'd take the other fork.

JW: I've been up to that, where it comes out of Blanchet.

Lynn: Where that canal comes out. We had a canal on over to Twin Lakes, and they said, "Well we'll keep the Twin Lakes and give you..." What they didn't know is that Twin Lakes don't run as much water as the Blanchet Park. They'd just walked into it dumb. Then to top it off, I ask them, "Where will this water be measured?" I wanted to know. I said, "At the face or Blanchet Park?" "Oh, at Blanchet Park, of course." Because they thought they were going to lose it from Blanchet Park getting out there. That's just what I wanted because there's another creek come in! This other creek come in a mile this side of Blanchet Park. So when they said that we had that in there, too, because we gained water all the way out to the face.

After it was all cut and over with and I was president of the company again, Mecham and some of the Dry Forkers and a few of the Vernal people come up there to see me in the store. They said, "Lynn, we know you're a nice guy and we feel like we've kind of been had." It was all settled in court, all settled with the courts down here and it was on record. They said, "Don't you think you ought to give us some of that water back? You've about got it all." I said, "Well, you

were there, all your representatives were there." I said, "You agreed to it, it's settled now." And he says, "Well, don't you think you ought to settle with us?" I says, "Well, if the shoe was on the other foot, how would you do it? Would you give us that water if the shoe was on the other foot?" They says, "No, I guess I wouldn't." I don't know, he kind of whined around.

Well, you know the Hubers, they're a big stockholder over there. I says, "You know Woolley and the rest of them, they're not going to give up that water. What can I do? If I wanted to, I couldn't do it." So Mosby ended up with the good water out of it. We started out with the newest water right and ended up with the oldest.

JW: You probably didn't know that in the early days, around 1912 along in there, the Ouray Park irrigation tried to come in there and tap that water, and they started a tunnel.

Lynn: I heard about it. They were going to go through the mountain to get it out there.

JW: I think they kind of got stopped on this water right deal that it belonged to Ashley Valley.

Lynn: What we done, we just took a filing on top of theirs.

JW: When they didn't renew theirs....

Lynn: We had a forty-foot filing on top of theirs. Then the reclamation, well not the reclamation, but the power board, took a filing on top of our forty feet. I'm not sure what they're going to do with that yet, but it sounds like they're going to give it up because they're going to build that Julius Park now, it sounds like. They've got a man that'll work for us now, not Siddoway. Siddoway told us, "You'll build that over our dead bodies." This is Julius Park. Edgar and me owned the Julius Park filing.

We had a deal made with Mosby company that they'd build it for half. For half of the filing, they'd build the pond, which they went ahead and did. But Lawrence Siddoway says, "You'll build it over our dead body." Well it's built and he's not dead, so I don't know.

But this Rasmussen, he's helping us; he's working with us; he's a good boy. I like Rasmussen, but Siddoway and Hugh Colton and Bry Stringham, they're the ones that cost us our water. They give it to Central Utah. They sold us down the river, when they changed that vote. It used to be equal vote throughout all the counties in the state. Then they voted to put it in a popular vote, well that give Salt Lake all the vote, now they control the water.

See what they're doing to us right now, they're charging us these billions of dollars to build this aqueduct over in to there. They couldn't have done it the way it was. But the way it is now, they can do it. They're taxing us to come and steal our water and turning around and pumping it out on Salt Lake desert; then they've been milking the clouds so it don't get here. So what are they getting? Then the Indians is taking billions of dollars for that water, they've got to buy it after they get the aqueduct built. Is it feasible? I don't think it is!

JW: It's too much like the national debt. Costs you too much.

Lynn: I told them the geology shows that this water that we took up there, to my geology thinking, up here on this mountain. See this here is raised up and broke. When it broke down

here in the base, that leaves a channel, I mean it's a broken place where the water can fall out. I've mentioned this to the geologist engineers when we was having this go around down here. "Oh," he says, "it couldn't go that distance." I says, "Wait a minute, when the Beaver Meadows Reservoir broke over here, that water went fifteen miles along the base of the mountain before it come out of that spring out at Bennetts." I says, "This could do the same." "Well," he says, "This has got so much farther to go and so many faults to go through." I said, "It can pass through those faults. It'll go up and down through those faults. Slows it down, ponds it." And they wouldn't believe it, no sir, it didn't do that! Now they've taken this radioactive or this test in it and they found it does! Shows up in Jones Hole.

JW: When they put that dye in, it showed up over there?

Lynn: Yeah, and that's exactly what I told them, and they all argued against it!

JW: You were relating to me a story about your father and talking to Dr. Hullinger. I'd like you to tell a little about that again.

Lynn: Well, we lived close to them down there in Naples. They lived on the corner and we lived back of them, a half mile south. Of course, we were acquainted, but we were up here in town. I was just a little shaver then, and they were having a celebration, I think it was a Fourth of July celebration. Quite a crowd of people. For Vernal then, it was a crowd. They were out in the street there and my dad was sitting on the bank corner there talking to Doc Hullinger. He says, "Did you ever know Joe Smith?" He says, "You bet I did. I seen him on several occasions." He says, "Well what kind of a man was Joe Smith?" Well, he turned and he says, "George, if he was out in that crowd right there, I wouldn't have to point him out to you, you'd know who Joe Smith was, his character was that outstanding."

JW: That's quite a tribute. The old doc, he did know him back in the old days, another one that knew him was Harley Morley. He was a bodyguard for Joseph Smith. He came with the Mormon battalion.

end.